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SOVIET ARMS BUILDUP SEEN BY C. I. A. CHIEF

Turner Says Such a Program May
Account for the Rejection of
U.S. Proposal for Cuts

By DREW MIDDLETON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 6—The Soviet rejection of United States proposals for limiting strategic weapons deployment may be linked to Soviet progress on a new family of nuclear arms, according to Adm. Stansfield Turner, Director of Central Intelligence.

Sources familiar with the buildup have asserted that 15 new weapons systems are in the testing and development stage and that the investment in these systems may be as much as \$40 billion.

Admiral Turner, in an interview, did not confirm or deny these figures. He said, however, that the Vladivostok agreement of 1974 involved no significant reduction in the number of Soviet strategic weapons. The agreement put a ceiling of 2,400 on the number of strategic missiles and bombers that each side could possess. This was roughly the Soviet force level at the time.

Acceptance of the American proposals for a reduction of the Vladivostok ceiling to 1,800 to 2,000, Admiral Turner said, would involve major cuts in the Soviet Union's weapons program with consequent economic dislocation.

Nuclear Weapons Parity Doubtful

He does not believe that the Russians have yet attained nuclear weapons parity with the United States, although he conceded that they might consider that parity and even superiority were within reach when weapons now in the development and testing programs were deployed.

Admiral Turner sees a gradual erosion in the military balance of power between the United States and the Soviet Union. This is particularly true, he said, in international perception of the growth of the Soviet Navy into a force able to project power into areas as far away as the Indian Ocean.

A century ago Czarist Russia deployed fleets in the Mediterranean Sea and in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, so there is nothing particularly new about Russia as a naval power, he commented. The Russians, he believes, think in terms of 19th-century power and are building military forces, both conventional and nuclear, that will compensate for their economic and political weaknesses.

In ground forces, he said, they have expanded tank, artillery and missile strength and this has contributed to a

Political Loss of Leverage Seen

Admiral Turner believes that the United States can and will be able to redress the erosion of power because the American people are seeing a need to do so. He also feels that the Soviet loss of political leverage in the world has not yet been grasped by Americans. Whatever progress the Soviet Union makes militarily must be set against political losses, he said.

"They lost Indonesia and Egypt," he said, and he believes that Soviet influence in Syria is ebbing. But, like Imperial Germany, he said, the Soviet Union covets a "place in the sun" and is likely to probe and then push its overseas influence despite evident weaknesses at home.

The military buildup, he said, should be seen as an attempt to gain political advantages around the world without the necessity of war. He does not believe that the United States is required to institute a military program to meet the Soviet challenge, but should devote resources and attention to the problems raised by Soviet military expansion.

OZIGI SALT

CIA 3.03 USSR

CIA 3.03 Syria